



# County of San Diego

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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Community Epidemiology  
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Maternal, Child and Family Health Services  
Public Health Laboratory  
PH Nursing/Border Health  
TB Control & Refugee Health  
Vital Records

### Medical Director's Update for Base Station Physicians' Committee March, 2008

**Marcy Metz new EMS Chief:** Join EMS in congratulating Marcy Metz as the new EMS Chief. You know Marcy in her role as acting chief and previously as Quality Improvement Specialist for prehospital programs. Marcy previously worked for Scripps Health including time as a Director of Emergency Services and Critical Care Services. Congratulations Marcy.

**Barbara Byous** our administrative secretary is retiring. Our thanks to her for all her hard work and contributions through the years. **Pauline Thomas** from Paradise Valley's ED has joined EMS in the disaster section working with facilities, including hospitals and skilled nursing facilities. An early goal will be following up on the fire response.

**Bypass/Off Load Delays:** The system has been busy. The attached graphs show fewer transports in February, but the number of calls to bases in the last few weeks has been substantial. We have experienced periods of high bypass and, of more concern, some off load delays in hospitals. The graphs show there are still substantial numbers of hours of bypass. The amount of true influenza suddenly rose several weeks ago, but has since receded. There is some influenza like illness, but ED visits for ILI have not been great in sentinel hospitals. Hospitals are reminded to use the Capacity Plan to maintain the ability to take patients, and hopeful, hold as few patients as possible for admission. We continue to work with the hospitals and field on specific issues.

**Infectious Disease:** EMS met with the public health laboratory and the medical examiner's office to streamline specimen collection and testing for exposures when patients die in the field. We will keep providers informed as this develops.

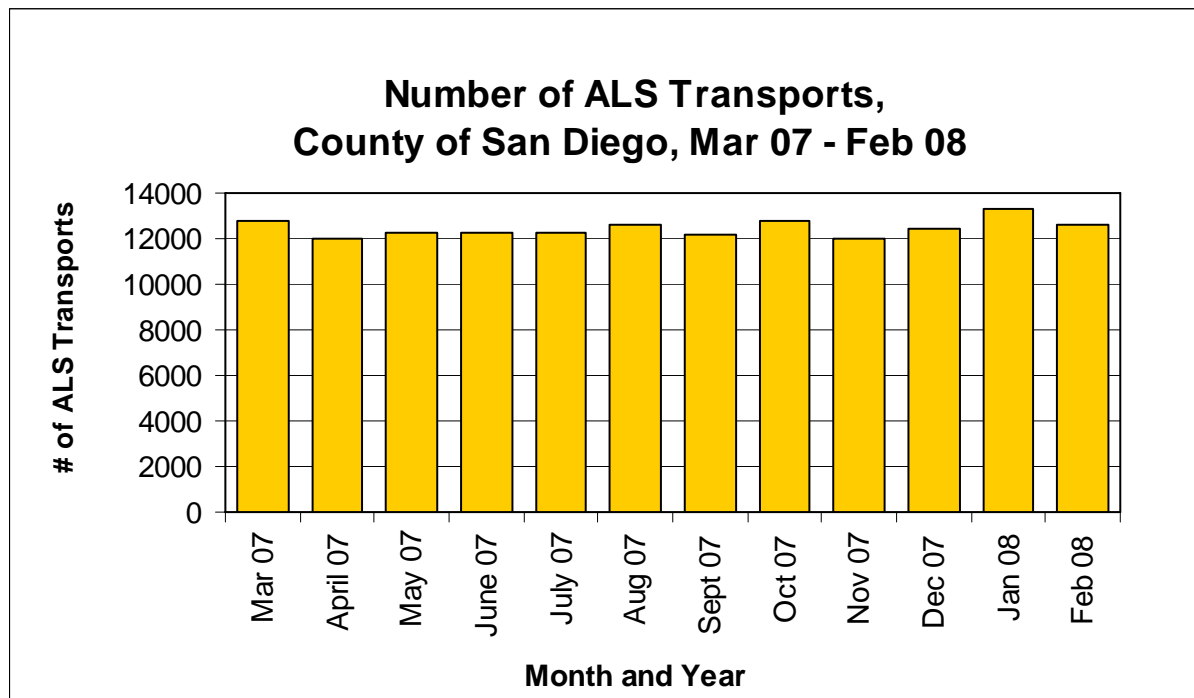
**ROC:** Some training remains to be completed, and some community consultation must be finished, but the ROC study should be underway in the City of San Diego in the near future.

**STEMI:** Door to balloon times are excellent for activated patients. Thank you for all your work on this. Remember that quality EKGs are important to avoid false positives. We encourage the field

to read the entire interpretation to give the base a chance to hear the complete interpretation. This also may help with false positives, or give important information. Mimics like atrial flutter and other SVTs also cause false positive EKGs. In addition, patients with symptoms that are not typical of MI are more likely to end up with false positive EKGs.

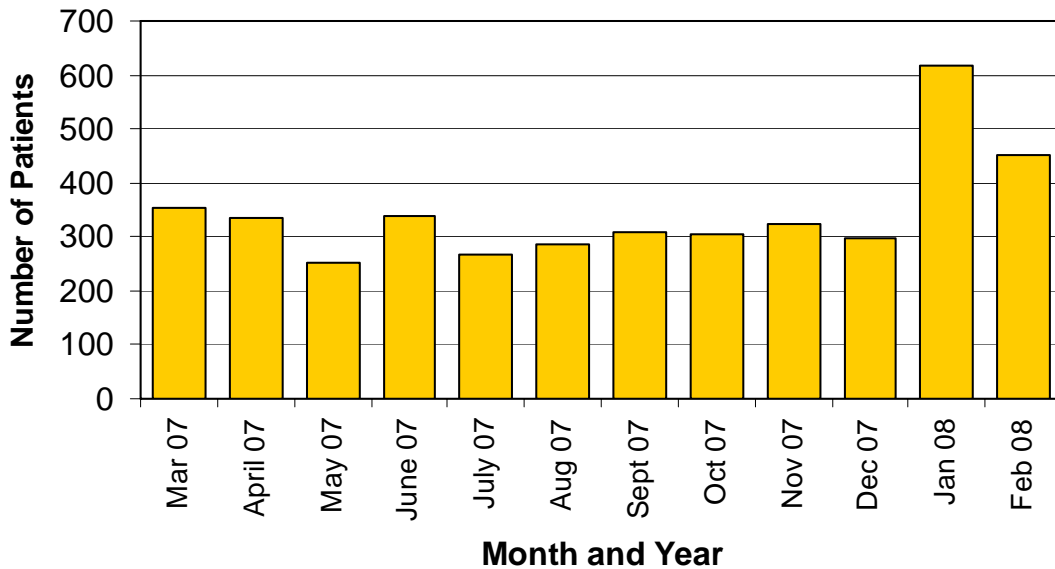
**In-service:** We plan on focusing on CHF treatment, especially on getting CHF patients early nitroglycerine, rather than initial treatment with albuterol and Atrovent. CPAP will be added as an optional skill, and will present another treatment option for the severe patient.

**Below are the patient destination data in graphic form:**



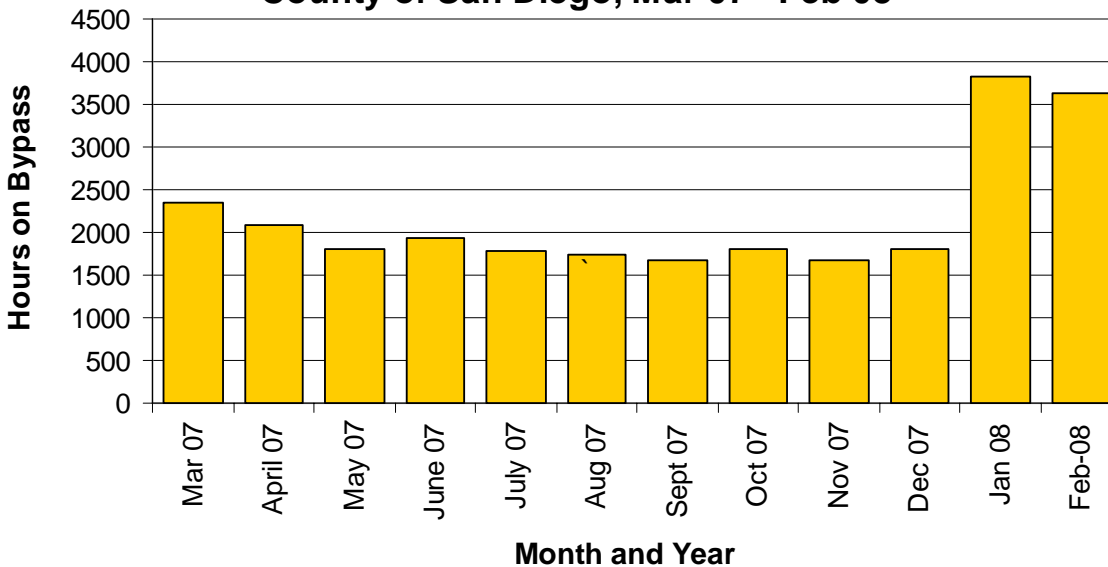
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Mar 2007 – Feb 2008 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other

### Number of Patients who Bypassed the Requested Hospital, County of San Diego, Mar 07 - Feb 08



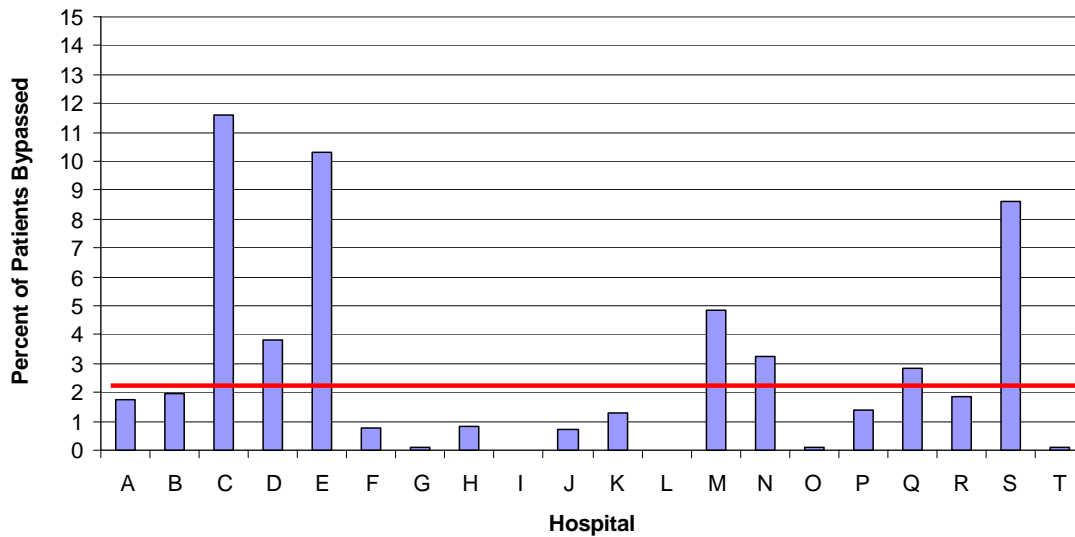
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Mar 2007 – Feb 2008 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other

### Total Hours on Emergency Department Bypass County of San Diego, Mar 07 - Feb 08



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Mar 2007 – Feb 2008

## Percent of Patients Bypassed per Hospital, Feb 2008



Note: The red line represents the mean value of percent of patients bypassed per hospital, Feb 2008

Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Feb 2008 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other